The Government does not grant exclusive recognition to any single organisation. An open and constructive dialogue is maintained, largely through Indian missions abroad, with a wide-range of NRI organisations.

The Government supports seminars, conferences, etc. for NRIs and PIOs both in India and abroad on a continuous basis. The problems of NRIs and PIOs were reviewed at a series of recent high level meetings in the Government with a view to enabling people of Indian origin to have better access to India and minimise hindrances in their participation in investment in India in areas such as real estate, housing, industry, etc. The Government has set up the office of Commissioner for NRIs for collecting and disseminating information on incentive schemes for NRIs and PIOs in this regard. Besides this, there is an Overseas Indians Cell in the Ministry of External Affairs which looks after the other requirements of NRIs.

Settlement of Compensation Claims of Indian Workers in Iraq

941. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred Question 1712 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 1997 and state:

(a) the details of the compensation claims of Indian workers in Iraq settled as on date under various categories; category-wise;

(b) whether the claim numbers Q/KSC/534891 have since been settled;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) The details of compensation claims approved by the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) are as follows:

(i) 'A' claims, i.e., claims payable to those who fled from Kuwait/Iraq in the wake of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but prior to March, 1991—102, 154.

(ii) 'B' claims, i.e., claims for death/injury—183

(iii) 'C' claims, i.e., claims for loss of property upto $100,000—21,371.

(iv) 'D' claims,i.e., claims in excess of $100,000—Nil

(v) 'E' claims, i.e., Corporate claims—Nil

(vi) 'F' claims, i.e., Government claims—Nil

Of these claims, moneys were transferred for partial settlement of 18,818 'A' claims @US$2,500/- per claim in March, 1997 and payments against them are presently being made through designated banks. The balance compensation would be paid on receipt of additional funds from the UNCC. Compensation for settlement of 183 'B' claims was transferred in early 1998 and it has been almost fully disbursed by the designated banks, excluding a small number of claimants who could not be traced. Money, for partial settlement of 5,749 'C' claims, amounting to US$14,126,281.87, was remitted by the UNCC last month and is in the process of being paid to eligible claimants through designated banks.

(b) to (d) Claim No. Q/SKC/534891 was used on GOI forms which were initially supplied to claimants in 1991 in order to apply for compensation. The UNCC decided in 1992 that all claims for compensation needed to be submitted on separate forms issued by it. The earlier applications on GOI forms carrying No. Q/SKC/534891 were therefore deemed to be invalid.

Bilateral agreement with UAE for transfer of criminals

942. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dialogue is going on with UAE for entering into a bilateral agreement for transfer of criminals of the respective countries on reciprocal basis;